

B<sup>-</sup> is the valence of the anion and  
a and b are integers,  
with the proviso that the compound is electrically neutral.

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request examination of the present application as amended herein.  
Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-8 have been amended. Upon entry of the above preliminary amendment,  
claims 1-8 remain pending in the application. A marked-up version of the amended claims is  
attached hereto in Appendix A. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the  
undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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APPENDIX A

1. (Amended) A process for producing polyurethanes [by] comprising reacting at least one polyisocyanate with at least one compound containing at least two hydrogen atoms which are reactive toward isocyanate groups, wherein the compound containing at least two active hydrogen atoms [which is used is] comprises at least one polyether alcohol prepared by addition of alkylene oxides onto H-functional initiator substances by means of multimetal cyanide catalysis and wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of at least one metal salt of the formula

$M^{(A+)}_a X^{(B-)}_b$ , where

M is selected from among  $\text{Li}^+$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Rb}^+$ ,  $\text{Cs}^+$ ,  $\text{Be}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$ ,

X is selected from among  $\text{F}^-$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{ClO}^-$ ,  $\text{ClO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{ClO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{Br}^-$ ,  $\text{I}^-$ ,  $\text{IO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{CN}^-$ ,  $\text{OCN}^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_2^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ ,  $\text{S}^{2-}$ ,  $\text{SH}^-$ ,  $\text{HSO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$ ,  $\text{HSO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_2^{2-}$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_5^{2-}$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_6^{2-}$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_7^{2-}$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_2^-$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ,  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_7^{4-}$ ,  $(\text{OC}_n\text{H}_{2n+1})^-$ ,  $(\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n-1}\text{O}_2)^-$ ,  $(\text{C}_{n+1}\text{H}_{2n-2}\text{O}_2)^-$ ,  $(\text{S}_{n+1}\text{H}_{sn-2}\text{O}_4)^{2-}$  where n = 1-20 and their mixed salts and mixtures, [where]

$A^+$  is the valence of the cation,

$B^-$  is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

with the proviso that the compound is electrically neutral.

2. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal salt  $M^{(A+)}_a X^{(B-)}_b$  is selected [from among] such that:

$M^{(A+)} = \text{Li}^+, \text{Na}^+, \text{K}^+, \text{NH}_4^+, \text{Mg}^{2+}$ , or  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , and

$X^{(B-)} = \text{F}^-, \text{Cl}^-, \text{Br}^-, \text{I}^-, \text{NO}_3^-, \text{HCO}_3^-, \text{CO}_3^{2-}, \text{HSO}_4^-, \text{SO}_4^{2-}, \text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-, \text{HPO}_4^{2-}, \text{PO}_4^{3-}, (\text{OC}_n\text{H}_{2n+1})^-$ ,

$(C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-$ , or  $(C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_4)^{2-}$  where  $n = 1-20$

and their mixed salts and mixtures, where

$A^+$  is the valence of the cation,

$B^-$  is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

with the proviso that the compound is electrically neutral.

4. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 or 2, wherein the metal salt is dissolved in the polyisocyanate.

6. (Amended) A polyurethane [which can be] produced according to any one of the processes as claimed in [any of] claims 1 to 5.

7. (Amended) A flexible polyurethane foam [which can be] produced according to any one of the processes as claimed in [any of] claims 1 to 6.

8. (Amended) A polyether alcohol [which can be prepared by reacting] comprising the reaction product of H-functional compounds with alkylene oxides using multimetal cyanides as catalysts [and which contains] comprising at least one metal salt of the formula

$M^{(A^+)}_a X^{(B^-)}_b$ , where

M is selected from among  $Li^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Rb^+$ ,  $Cs^+$ ,  $Be^{2+}$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ , Sr<sup>2+</sup>, and Ba<sup>2+</sup>,

X is selected from among  $F^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $ClO^-$ ,  $ClO_3^-$ ,  $ClO_4^-$ ,  $Br^-$ ,  $I^-$ ,  $IO_3^-$ ,  $CN^-$ ,  $OCN^-$ ,  $NO_2^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $HCO_3^-$ ,

$CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $S^{2-}$ ,  $SH^-$ ,  $HSO_3^-$ ,  $SO_3^{2-}$ ,  $HSO_4^-$ ,  $S_2O_2^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_3^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_4^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_5^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_6^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_7^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_8^{2-}$ ,  $H_2PO_2^-$ ,

$H_2PO_4^{2-}$ ,  $PO_4^{3-}$ ,  $P_2O_7^{4-}$ ,  $(OC_nH_{2n+1})^-$ ,  $(C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-$ ,  $(C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_2)^-$ ,  $(S_{n+1}H_{sn-2}O_4)^{2-}$  where  $n = 1-20$  and their mixed salts and mixtures,

$A^+$  is the valence of the cation,

$B^-$  is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

with the proviso that the compound is electrically neutral.

W. E.  
P. T.  
S. C.  
M. S.  
M. A.  
M. B.  
M. C.  
M. D.  
M. E.  
M. F.  
M. G.  
M. H.  
M. I.  
M. J.  
M. K.  
M. L.  
M. M.  
M. N.  
M. O.  
M. P.  
M. Q.  
M. R.  
M. S.  
M. T.  
M. U.  
M. V.  
M. W.  
M. X.  
M. Y.  
M. Z.